

MILTON EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

February 27, 2009

Beirne Lovely, School Committee Chair
25 Gile Rd.
Milton, MA 02186

Dear Beirne:

The MEA Executive Board met on February 26, 2009 for the purpose of considering the School Committee's request to reopen the Unit A and Unit B contracts.

Although there were many factors that influenced the Executive Board's final decision, prominent among them were the following:

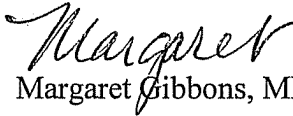
- The MEA, along with all other town unions, has made a proposal to the town to transfer all subscribers to the Group Insurance Commission. That proposal would have saved the town of Milton over \$500,000 this year and millions of dollars over the next five years. In addition, our proposal would have made long term structural changes for future retirees that would have greatly benefitted the town for years to come.
- One third of the membership of the Milton Educators Association resides in Milton. There is an override scheduled for June. We cannot ask these teachers to vote to raise their taxes and, at the same time, expect them to vote to reduce their pay. This amounts to an extra tax on teachers.
- The MEA is committed to passing the override. 421 MTA members live in Milton. The MEA will be contacting each of them by mail and urging them to support the override. Additionally, we will be organizing an evening phone bank for the days preceding the override vote. At that time, our members will be calling every MTA member who resides in Milton to ask that they and their families get out and vote "yes" on the override.
- Our teachers who live in other communities pay property taxes to support their own public schools and other town services. Teachers cannot afford, nor should they be expected, to pay to support the public schools in two communities.
- The current budget projections do not include the federal stimulus money that is targeted to education.

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- Teacher salaries are not what is causing the revenue shortfall nor will they be the solution. This would be a temporary band-aid. We would only be postponing the pain. The answer is to work together at the local, state and federal level to fight for a predictable and adequate funding for public education.
- Like many other taxpayers in the Commonwealth, our members' paychecks are stretched to the limit. Like other citizens, we pay our taxes, make mortgage and car payments, pay escalating utility fuel and tuition bills, and absorb the never ending increases in health insurance and prescription drug costs. Like other citizens we find ourselves with spouses who have lost jobs. Now we find we are being asked to use our paychecks to subsidize the shortfall in state and federal revenues.

In closing, after careful consideration and deliberation, the MEA Executive Board voted unanimously not to reopen the Unit A and Unit B contracts.

Sincerely,



Margaret Gibbons, MEA President

Cc: MEA Executive Board
Jacqueline McDonough, MTA Field Representative
Mary Gormley, Superintendent